

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the official action of July 15, 2005, wherein claims 13-15, 21, and 24-28 were rejected as obvious over Kajita et al. in view of the applicants' allegedly admitted prior art. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 13, 14, and 22 have been amended, and claims 25-27 added to more particularly define the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 26 and 27, in particular, are supported by Examples 11-14.

The present invention provides a resist flow process for forming a photoresist pattern. The resist flow process uses a photoresist composition containing a photoresist polymer, a photo acid generator, an organic solvent, and an additive selected from a group of recited compounds.

A photoresist polymer with a high glass transition temperature (T_g) cannot otherwise be used for a resist flow process since T_g and decomposition temperature (T_d) of the polymer would be too close to each other. However, the additive of the invention serves to lower the polymer's T_g , thus improving the flow characteristic of the photoresist composition. As the result, the presently-claimed photoresist composition makes materials with high T_g suitable for the resist flow process applied (see page 5, line 7 through page 6 line 5 in the specification).

On the other hand, the Kajita patent relates to a radiation-sensitive resin composition containing a polymer, a photo acid generator and an alicyclic compound. However, the Kajita reference discloses neither an additive recited in the amended claims nor a resist flow process using the same.

The allowability of claims 16, 22, and 23 is noted, with appreciation.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, he is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

By: 

James P. Zeller

Reg. No. 28,491

Attorneys for Applicants

October 7, 2005

6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-6300